



NEWS RELEASE

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**MORE THAN 10,700 FUGITIVE ARRESTS BY NATIONALLY COORDINATED U.S.
MARSHALS' "OPERATION FALCON III"**

380 Arrests on Outstanding Warrants Made in Western District of Louisiana

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA – More than 10,700 fugitives, including 1,659 fugitive sex offenders, were arrested in a seven-day nationally coordinated fugitive roundup led by the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) and hundreds of partners from state, local and other federal agencies, U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales and USMS Director John F. Clark announced today. More than 380 fugitives were arrested in the Western District of Louisiana, U.S. Attorney Donald W. Washington and U.S. Marshal William R. Whittington announced today.

U.S. Attorney Donald W. Washington stated, “The Department of Justice is absolutely committed to aggressive pursuit of those who exploit children and commit other violent crimes. Operation Falcon is a shining example of success in bringing criminals to justice through coordinated action by dedicated professionals in local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. All of us who have families, neighbors, and friends are grateful that these men and women of law enforcement are always on watch, and doing their duty.”

“This operation, along with our past FALCON efforts, provides a clear indication of what law enforcement agencies can accomplish when there is cooperation on all levels—federal, state and local,” said U.S. Marshal Whittington. “When we share information and pool our resources towards a common goal, the results are safer communities for our children and a more secure homeland.”

Nationally, Deputy U.S. Marshals and their law enforcement partners arrested 10,773 fugitives and

cleared 13,333 felony warrants during the seven-day operation, including 3,609 for narcotics violations and 140 homicide warrants. Task force members also arrested 971 unregistered sex offenders and 364 documented gang members.

In the Western District of Louisiana, law enforcement agencies arrested 380 fugitives and cleared 465 warrants. Of the fugitives arrested, 369 had prior convictions and 21 were unregistered sex offenders. Below is a breakdown of the number of arrests by each major city in the district.

WDLA	Arrests	Warrants Cleared
Alexandria	107	151
Lafayette	41	52
Lake Charles	43	45
Monroe	54	64
Shreveport	135	153
TOTAL	380	465

Below is a breakdown of the arrests by offense:

	Warrants Cleared by Arrest	Total Warrants Cleared	Fugitives Cleared by Arrest	Total Fugitives Cleared
Sex Offense	6	5	4	5
Sexual Assault	6	6	5	6
Sex Offender/Register	21	21	21	20
Arson	2	2	1	1
Assault	34	34	30	31
Burglary/Larceny	63	64	52	56
Extortion	0	0	0	0
Financial Fraud	33	33	28	28
Homicide	3	3	3	2
Kidnap	0	0	0	0
narcotics	178	179	147	151
Robbery	10	10	8	9
Stolen Vehicles	4	4	2	2
Weapons	13	13	12	12
Other	74	74	55	47
Total	446	448	368	370

One such arrest made in Alexandria, Louisiana was selected as a FALCON 15, meaning it is one of the top 15 arrests in the entire FALCON operation. Elton Murray was arrested on October 20, 2006 in Cottonport, Louisiana. Murray was wanted for attempted murder, aggravated burglary, and theft of a motor vehicle. The charges stem from Murray's alleged attack of an elderly woman on October 15, 2006, wherein Murray attacked the woman with a large knife and a wooden lamppost. He allegedly beat the woman into a

state of unconsciousness before fleeing with her ATM card and vehicle. Murray has an extensive criminal history of violent crime, including molestation of a juvenile, armed robbery, aggravated burglary, and resisting an officer.

Fugitives whose cases were adopted by Operation FALCON III were sought by the U.S. Marshals Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General (HUD-OIG), Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (DHS-ICE), United States Attorneys Offices, other federal, state, and local agencies, and courts at every level of government. Additionally, Operation FALCON task force members handled cases referred by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, as well as those of foreign fugitives believed to be in this country. The Marshals Service also received support from the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) at the Department of Justice. Interpol and the Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service assisted in the investigations of persons wanted by law enforcement worldwide. Seven foreign and seven international fugitives who were arrested during Operation FALCON III now face deportation or extradition proceedings.

Operation FALCON III was conducted in 24 states east of the Mississippi River, in the District of Columbia and in Puerto Rico. Deputy Marshals teamed up with thousands of officers, deputies, troopers, agents and investigators from other federal, state and local agencies to conduct the Operation.

Operation FALCON III received a major boost from the Adam Walsh Act, named after the murdered son of *America Most Wanted* host John Walsh. The law directs federal resources to tasks of rounding up sexual predators and helping state and local governments catch convicted individuals who failed to register in communities where they live.

"Operation FALCON has once again proven how much we can accomplish with our network of federal, state, and local law enforcement," said Attorney General Gonzales. "This operation has made our nation's neighborhoods and children safer by taking off the streets some of the worst sex offenders, violent felons and gang members."

PHOTOS/VIDEOS AVAILABLE

The Marshals Service has photos of actual arrests during the operation available at www.usmarshals.gov/falcon3, as well as fact sheets on arrests nationwide and in each of the participating districts. Dossiers on the "FALCON 15," describing 15 of the most significant cases closed during the operation, are available at the site. A 10-minute B-roll video package for broadcasters will be available for satellite distribution on Nov. 2, at 2:00 – 2:15 P.M. EST (11:00 – 11:15 A.M. PST) and at 7:00 – 7:15 P.M. EST (4:00 – 4:15 pm PST) at C-Band coordinates (IA 6 T-11 Downlink Frequency 3920 V 93 degrees WL), and on Nov. 3, at 4:00 – 4:15 A.M. EST (1:00 – 1:15 A.M. PST) at C-Band coordinates (IA 6 T-17 Downlink Frequency 4040 V 93 degrees WL).

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

A complete list of all federal, state and local agencies that participated in Operation FALCON III is available at the USMS Web site, www.usmarshals.gov/falcon3.

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